

January 9, 2003

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service,
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

My colleague, Gene Dejordy, and I, made a presentation on December 19th to Commissioner Lila Jaber of the Florida Public Service Commission. Commissioner Jaber's aides, Greg Fogleman and David Dowds, also attended the meeting. We addressed the issues raised in the *Referral Order* regarding competitive universal service in the docket referred to above, FCC 02-307 (released Nov. 8, 2002) and the questions to be raised by the Joint Board in a forthcoming notice in the same proceeding.

If you have any questions, then please feel free to call me at 425-586-8736.

Respectfully submitted,

James Blundell
Director of External Affairs
Western Wireless Corp.